First Member of Council.—

The cess is on account of railway lines in the district as a whole and not for any particular line.

Mr. B. Srinivasa Rao.—

Has the District Board started a Sinking Fund ?

First Member of Council.—

The information has to be ascertained.

Mr. B. Srinivasa Rao.—

Has Government enquired into that matter ?

First Member of Council.—

As I stated, the information required has to be ascertained.

Mr. B. Srinivasa Rao.—

If after proper calculation it is found that the District Board has already paid more than the loan, will the Government abolish the cess ?

Second Member of Council.—

Let the District Board consider the question and send up a resolution.

Mr. B. Srinivasa Rao.—

If the District Board passes a resolution that the cess should not be levied, would the Government agree ?

First Member of Council.—

The matter requires consideration.

MESSRS. D. YEJAMAN SIDDAPPA (Tumkur Municipality) and NABI KHAN (Tumkur Taluk).—

Q.—27. Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) The amount of remissions sanctioned under Forest and Excise contracts in the State from the year 1921 till now ?

(*b*) The reasons for granting remissions ?

(*c*) The officers who recommended the remission ?

(*d*) The amount of arrears still due to Government under the two items in each of the districts ?

(*e*) The reasons for not recovering the same till now ?

(*f*) The amount of Excise arrears still outstanding in the Tumkur District with reason therefor and the amount of Excise arrears remitted till now ?

(*g*) Will the Government announce, at the time of giving contract by sale, that remission would be granted ?

(*h*) Is it not a mistake if remission had been granted contrary to the conditions of sale notification ?

(*i*) Were not arrears due from one person in the Tumkur District recovered by means of civil warrant, attachment and sale of his property ? If so, why were not arrears due by others recovered in the same manner ?

Forest.

CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.—

A.—27. (*a*) (1) 1920-23 Timber sales Rs. 66,140 as per G.O. No. I. C. 7762—Ft. 211-23-17, dated 14th May 1925.

(2) 1925-27 Tangadi lease Rs. 1,21,942-12-0 as per G.O. No. D. 8305-7—Ft. 212-25-48, dated 29th March 1927.

(*b*) Fall of prices of the materials.

(*c*) The Head of the Department on the representation of the contractors and in the case of No. 2, a resolution was also tabled before the Legislative Council.

(*d*) (1920-23 Timber sales, Rs. 10,878).

	Rs.	A.	P.
Mysore District	2,235	5	6
Bhadravati Division.. ..	8,574	0	9
Shimoga Division	68	10	0

(*e*) Action is being taken by coercive process.

(*g*) No.

(*h*) A matter of opinion.

(*i*) No such case in the Forest Department.

Excise.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.—

A.—27. (*a*) Rs. 1,25,673.

(*b*) Due to the amounts being ascertained to be irrecoverable.

(*c*) Revenue Officers.

		Rs.	a.	p.
(*d*) 1.	Bangalore ..	17,863	12	0
2.	Mysore ..	56,938	7	1
3.	Kolar ..	20,132	3	7
4.	Tumkur ..	56,016	4	4
5.	Hassan ..	9,718	5	10
6.	Kadur ..	3,534	12	8
7.	Shimoga ..	1,765	11	8
8.	Chitaldrug ..	12,929	12	5
	Total ..	1,78,899	5	7

(*e*) It is not possible to give the information without a detailed examination of each item of arrears, which takes time. Coercive processes for recovery of current demand arising during the last month of the year cannot be completed before its close.

(*f*) (1) Rs. 47,655. Proceedings for recovery under Land Revenue Rules are in progress.

(2) Rs. 17,623.

(*g*) No.

(*h*) The question does not arise. *Vide* Answer to (*b*).

(*i*) A portion of the arrears was recovered by the attachment and sale of his property. Nothing has been recovered under the civil warrant. Recovery of arrears is usually made by issue of coercive processes under the Land Revenue Rules.

Supplementary Questions and Answers.

Mr. Subbanna Naik.—

What was the policy underlying the remissions mentioned in the answer to (*b*) ?

Chief Conservator of Forests.—

The contractors have made very high bids; subsequently the prices showed an appreciable fall and the contractors would have been ruined if the remission had not been given.

Mr. Subbanna Naik.—

Was the approval of Government obtained before the remissions were given ?

Chief Conservator of Forests.—

Yes.

Mr. Subbanna Naik.—

Were not deposit amounts taken before the contracts were sanctioned?

Chief Conservator of Forests.—

One-fourth of the amount due was taken as deposit.

Mr. Ramadoss.—

With reference to (*g*), if the departmental officers recommended remissions without authority and without proper enquiry, will the Government deal with such officers suitably ?

First Member of Council.—

Yes, if Government consider that any such action is necessary.

Mr. Ramadoss.—

With reference to (*h*), does the answer given mean that such questions should not be asked ?

Second Member of Council.—

It is not exactly that, but it is a matter of opinion.

Mr. Bagamane Deva Gowda.—

Will not the grant of remissions subsequent to auction bring about unhealthy competition at the next sales ?

First Member of Council.—

No, as remissions are granted only in rare cases calling for special relief.

Mr. Nabi Khan.—

With reference to answer to (*i*), were not the arrears due from one Sitakal Hanumanthiah recovered by means of a civil warrant ?

First Member of Council.—

No information.

Mr. Nabi Khan.—

Have the rules been enforced in regard to recovering dues ?

First Member of Council.—

Yes.

Mr. Nabi Khan.—

If so, how could all the dues be not recovered ?

First Member of Council.—

In a few cases, difficulties in making recoveries arise.

Mr. Nabi Khan.—

In the auction proclamation, is it not stated that the contract was subject to certain conditions specified therein ?

First Member of Council.—

Yes.

Mr. Nabi Khan.—

Is there no rule that two months' instalments should be received as deposit money and ten months' instalments as security ?

Second Member of Council.—

No; the rule is that either a security equivalent to two *khists* or a deposit equivalent to four *khists* should be taken, in the case of Mysoreans. In the case of outsiders, the amounts are double.

Mr. Nabi Khan.—

Who were the officers that recommended the remissions ?

Second Member of Council.—

We cannot tell you that.

Mr. Nabi Khan.—

If it is known that the officers were wrong in recommending remissions, will the amounts involved be recovered from the concerned officers ?

Second Member of Council.—

If officers act against rules, they are certainly liable to punishment.

Mr. Nabi Khan.—

When Bangalore and Mysore are the two districts that bring in the largest Excise revenue, how is it that remissions are few in those two districts and more in the Tumkur District ?

First Member of Council.—

It is not possible to say without going into details.

Mr. Nabi Khan.—

When remissions are recommended in undeserving cases to the detriment of the State's finances, is it not better to appoint a committee to examine all such cases ?

First Member of Council.—

No; authorized agencies enquire into such matters and take needful action.

Mr. Channabasappa.—

If Rangers or Excise Inspectors recommend remissions without reasonable cause, will the Government be justified in sanctioning the remissions ?

Excise Commissioner.—

They have nothing to do with recommending remissions.

Mr. Channabasappa.—

Whoever be the subordinate officers that recommend remissions, should not Government make sure of the reliability of their statements or reports ?

Second Member of Council.—

Government have no reason to think that subordinate officers make irresponsible reports.

Mr. Channabasappa.—

If it is found hereafter that the remissions were wrongly

granted in particular cases, will the Government re-consider the situation and recover those remissions and also proceed against the officers that recommended the remissions ?

Second Member of Council.—

If an Excise demand falls due, we write to the Revenue Department. They attach and auction the properties of the party from whom the amount is due. Even after that if collection becomes impossible, we give remissions.

Mr. Tudiki Ramanna.—

Among the present cases, did any of the contractors themselves apply for remission ?

Second Member of Council.—

The cases under consideration do not concern those who applied for remissions.

MESSRS. D. S. MALLAPPA and M. BASAVIAH (Tiptur Taluk) and G. K. MALLAPPA (Tiptur Municipality).—

Q.—28. Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) When the Davangere disturbances (recent) took place and on what dates the different provincial officers went to the spot and who they are and what sort of enquiries they made into the conduct of the officers who resorted to firing ?

(*b*) How many times was firing resorted to and in what places and the reason for resorting to firing so often?

(*c*) Who are all the persons that handled fire-arms that day ?

(*d*) When did the Government take definite steps to investigate the responsibility of the officers who resorted to firing and what are those steps ?

(*e*) What part did the local officers (whose conduct has yet to be investigated) take in the investigation of cases connected with the disturbances ?

(*f*) Subsequent to firing, what steps were taken by the local Police and the Magistracy to prevent a breach of the peace in the place ?

(*g*) Who were all the officers that were in the town when the provincial officers went to the town and who are all the officers that left the place before the provincial